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CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. For use with a cellular digital communication network having a base station and a plurality of subscriber units served thereby, said cellular digital communications network including a control channel by way of which digital signal transmission channels are assignable for communication sessions for said subscriber units, a method of allocating bandwidth to said subscriber units for said digital signal transmission channels comprising the steps of:
 - a) in response to a subscriber unit's request for a digital signal transmission channel, allocating a portion of said available bandwidth for use by said subscriber unit for said digital signal transmission channel during a communication session; and
 - b) in the absence of a presentation of digital communication signals by said subscriber unit for a prescribed period of time during said communication session, deallocating said portion of said available bandwidth from use by said subscriber unit while maintaining the appearance of a continuous connection for said communication session.
2. For use with a cellular digital communication network having a base station and a plurality of subscriber units served thereby, said cellular digital

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communications network including a control channel by way of which digital signal transmission channels are assignable for communication sessions for said subscriber units, a method of allocating bandwidth to said subscriber units for said digital signal transmission channels comprising the steps of:

- a) in response to a subscriber unit's need to transmit digital communication signals, allocating a portion of said available bandwidth that is selected to the extent possible for meeting said subscriber unit's need, for use by said subscriber unit during a communication session; and
- b) in the absence of a presentation of digital communication signals by said subscriber unit for a prescribed period of time during said communication session, deallocating a prescribed portion of said selected portion of said available bandwidth from said subscriber unit and, instead making said prescribed portion of said selected portion of said available bandwidth available for use by another subscriber unit.

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